

A monthly newsletter for the citizens of the City of Rockville

Town Center: Let's Get Started!

More than 350 Attend Groundbreaking Ceremony

Governor Robert L. Ehrlich, Montgomery County Executive Douglas Duncan and Congressman Chris Van Hollen were among the more than 350 people who gathered together on June 15 as the City of Rockville broke ground for the new Town Square Development that will be the focal point of the City's redeveloped downtown.

The event was hosted by Rockville Mayor Larry Giammo and Councilmembers Bob Dorsey, John Hall, Jr., Susan Hoffmann and Anne Robbins; and developers RD Rockville, LLC and Federal Realty Investment Trust. Construction is expected to begin this summer and the first buildings are expected to open in 2006.

"This is the most significant day in Rockville in more than three decades," said Mayor Larry Giammo, who mentioned how the old Rockville Mall opened in downtown in 1972



THROWING SOME DIRT... *The official start of the Town Square Development in Rockville Town Center was marked by the first toss of dirt on the site on June 15. From left to right: William Askinazi of Maryland's Department of Business and Economic Development, Councilmember John Hall, Jr., John Jaeger of RD Rockville, Scott Ross of RD Rockville, Mayor Larry Giammo, Don Wood of Federal Realty Investment Trust, Montgomery County Executive Doug Duncan, Maryland State Delegate Charles Barkley, Governor Robert Ehrlich, State Senator Jennie Forehand, Councilmember Bob Dorsey, Councilmember Anne Robbins, Montgomery County Councilmember Phil Andrews and Councilmember Susan Hoffmann.*

and struggled financially from the start. Most of the mall was demolished in 1995.

Phase I of Town Center, which has an estimated public-

private cost of about \$352 million, will be developed by RD Rockville, LLC. It will include about 630 condominium and apartment homes and approxi-

mately 170,000 square feet of retail space that will be owned by retail developer Federal Realty.

Town Square will encompass 12.5 of the 15-acre focal point of Phase I. Eventually, other phases of revitalization will expand Town Center to more than 60 acres.

Rockville Town Square will include a mix of uses for retail, restaurant, cultural, entertainment, condominium and apartment homes and office space. It also will include the new Rockville Regional Library.

"It's an exciting day in the history of Rockville. Rockville does it right. Rockville is an exciting place," said Governor Ehrlich. "The bottom line is we're going to create a community gathering space for this great community. And I find that terrific."

County Executive Duncan, who was mayor of Rockville from 1987-93, congratulated the Mayor and Council for reaching a point in Town Center devel-

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opment that has pre-occupied many of their predecessors.

"The downtown area of Rockville consumed Mayors and Councils for over 40 years," said County Executive Duncan. "It consumed them because they knew that if we didn't have a vibrant Town Center, something was missing from our community. ...It's going to bring people together, to unite the City, and make people prouder of where we live and where we work. That's hard to do when Rockville is already the finest place in the U.S.A. to raise a family. ...It's the Town Center that those of us who have served the people of Rockville over the years have dreamed about." **RR**

July 4 Spectacular

Food, fireworks, music and more!

Richard Montgomery High School

6:30 p.m. Entertainment begins

9:30 p.m. Fireworks

Details on page 6

FY'05 Budget Adopted; No Change in Tax Rate

The Mayor and Council adopted a \$74.9 million FY 2005 operating budget on June 14 that leaves the property tax rate unchanged at 32.2 cents per \$100 of assessed value and provides funding to support many Capital Improvement Programs and the new Rockville Town Center.

The FY 2005 budget represents a net increase of 7.2 over the modified FY 2004 budget. The budget goes into effect on July 1.

"We have made some major investments with this budget, like Town Center, and those investments will pay great dividends in the future," said Mayor Larry Giammo.

The Capital Improvements

Program (CIP) budget incorporates \$121,828,317 of community enhancements to be made over the next six years. In addition, open projects from prior years in the amount of \$138,358,032 will be included in the FY 2005 CIP appropriation.

The water rate will increase by \$.08 per thousand gallons in FY 2005, raising the rate to \$2.07 per thousand gallons, an increase of four percent. The sewer rate will increase by .11 per thousand gallons in FY 2005, raising the rate to \$3.61 per thousand gallons (3.1 percent). The refuse rate will increase by \$2.25 per month to \$27.75 per month (8.8 percent). **RR**



SHELTER FROM THE STORM... *Visitors to Dawson Farm Park can take cover from unexpected summer storms in the newly completed shelter. The shelter's construction was inspired by the former granary that stood on the historic Rockville site and can be used for picnics and other outdoor recreation.*

July's Best of Rockville

July 7

Family Arts Nights. Rockville Town Center is the place to be for outdoor entertainment every Wednesday in July. On July 7 at 7:30 p.m. the fun kicks-off with Galaxy, a high energy variety dance band. For more information, see the Focus on the Arts insert.

July 17

Rotary Twilight Run. The Washington, D.C. area's best-known evening road race, and one of the region's top block parties, will take place Saturday, July 17, at 7 p.m. Visit www.twilightrun.org or call 240-314-5028 for more information.



July 20

Kids Parks Performing Arts: "The Funny Guy." Physical comedy by Paul Hadfield. Hilarious... juggling, unicycling and so much more. 7:30 p.m. Falls Grove Park, 400 Casey Lane. (Rain site: F. Scott Fitzgerald Theatre.) Free. Call to verify location and for directions: 240-314-8682.

MAYOR & COUNCIL
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Knittin’ kittens of Lincoln Park Community Center.

Students Learn Timeless Craft

Rockville has many programs that affect the lives of residents. On a regular basis, “Focus On” will take an introspective look at these programs and detail the impact they have for City residents.

Students in the after-school program at Rockville’s Lincoln Park Community Center are not just learning from the text books they bring home from class each day. Nearly 20 youngsters spend some of their after school time learning a craft that has remained popular for centuries—knitting.

Members of “Kids Knit” are gaining new skills, having fun and also earning regional recognition for their efforts. A blanket the group knitted recently won a second place award in the Sheep and Wool Festival in Howard County and will take part in a Montgomery County festival in August.

Lisa Harvey and Jacqui Rose, the project’s adult volunteers from Rockville, lead the group whose members range in age from 6 to 14. Harvey and Rose have taught the students how to dye their own wool using Cool-Aid and vinegar. The students also learned the steps to weaving the colorful yarn into individual 12-inch squares, which they then sewed together to create the award-winning blanket.

In addition to the blanket, the students knit individual projects of their choosing, such as purses that can hold CD cases, backpacks, hats and mittens.

“It’s fun to make things you can wear,” said 13-year-old, Brittany Hill. “I never knew how to knit before. At first it was hard, but now it’s easy.”

All of the materials that make the program possible are organized and donated by Harvey and Rose.

Additional donations will be accepted at the *Woolwinders* store at 404 King Farm Boulevard, Rockville, MD 20850. Anyone wanting to help the program can call 240-632-YARN (9276).

“I’m in this for the long haul,” said Harvey, who has been organizing the group since September 2003. “I want to see them graduate from high school and attend college. They are my extended kids now.” **RR**

City Projects UPDATE

RECREATION & PARKS

City Hall Improvements • Reorganization and renovation of second and third floor interior spaces as well as the Bouic House for improved use efficiencies • Design in final stage for City Hall • Construction on the Bouic House has begun. The project is expected to take approximately 18 months.

Civic Center Long Range Plan • Feasibility study underway for corrective actions for adequate and accessible parking, vehicular and pedestrian access and storm water management on the Civic Center grounds • Completion of study and design recommendations to be completed by winter 2004.

Dawson Farm Park • Construction of granary in historically sensitive manner to serve as a park shelter/gazebo, and the artwork on the site, has been completed • Historic markers have been ordered and will be installed in early July • The wooden bridge renovation is scheduled to begin in early summer.

Dog Park • King Farm 28-acre park preliminary plan, which includes the Dog Park, has been presented at public design meeting. The feedback at the design meeting, including the Dog Park, was positive and final design plans are being pursued with citizen input.

Energy Performance Contract • Energy savings project through the Maryland Energy Administration’s Energy Performance Contract • Equipment replacement is 75 percent complete. Lighting replacement is 95 percent complete. HVAC restoration is 95 percent complete. Thermostat replacements are 95 percent complete. Planning and installation of the energy management system is 25 percent complete • All installations scheduled for completion by the end of August.

Gude Drive Facility Improvements • Modernization and expansion of the City’s Public Works and Parks maintenance complex in four phases • Phase I includes replacement of salt dome, storm water management upgrades, access improvements and improved debris storage • Construction documents out to bid this fall.

I-270/Route 28 Bike/Pedestrian Bridge • Separate bridge for pedestrians and bicyclists parallel to Route 28 on south

side across I-270 to connect Hurley Avenue and Nelson Street bikeways • TEA-21 grant for \$3,124,421 received from State Highway Administration • Construction scheduled to begin in fall.

James Monroe Park • Pathways throughout the park will be re-layed • Benches will be replaced • Contract out for bid • Work to begin in early fall.

King Farm Farmstead • Study underway for converting the Hay Drying Shed into a picnic shelter • Work in compliance with task force recommendations with Historic District Commission approvals.

King Farm 28-Acre Park • Preliminary park plan was presented to the public in May. Comments are being considered and may be incorporated into the plan • Final design is expected to be complete in the fall.

Millennium Trail • Norbeck Road multi-use path from East Gude Drive to Veirs Mill Road. • Construction to begin in June and is expected to be completed in the fall • Veirs Mill Road to Edmonston Drive currently in design • Majority of cost for both projects covered by TEA-21 grants awarded by State Highway Administration.

Playground Equipment Improvements • Replacement equipment at Maryvale and Elwood Smith parks is being designed with input from neighborhood children • Equipment installation is expected to begin in fall.

Rockville Senior Center • Expansion of dining room and kitchen renovations and improvements • Funding support from Maryland Office on Aging and Rockville Seniors, Inc. • Construction is underway. Estimated completion date is August.

Science Center Feasibility Study • Will study design and site options, program feasibility, services and funding opportunities for proposed new Rockville Science Center. Task Force made up of Science Consortium Board members and residents has begun to meet • Study proposals for consulting services have been received.

Swim Center • Interactive water playground or “Sprayground” to be added to outdoor complex for summer season. Construction is underway.

Urban Forest Renewal • Removal of aging and hazardous trees in Twinbrook, Fallsmead,

Potomac Woods and other neighborhoods is ongoing • Replacement plantings take place in the spring and fall.

PUBLIC WORKS

GENERAL PROJECTS
Cabin John Parkway Dead End • This project is substantially complete.

TRANSPORTATION
Baltimore Road Traffic Calming • Raised intersection at Woodburn Road • Construction planned for fall 2004.

Bike/Pedestrian Improvements • Route 28 and Great Falls Road intersection improvements to be constructed in summer • Beall Elementary School sidewalk improvements planning to begin winter 2005 • Nelson Street crosswalk for access to park to be constructed in the spring 2005 • Mannakee Street sidewalk to be constructed in the fall.

Fallsgrove-Funded Transportation Improvements • Majority of the projects are complete • Those yet to be finished include Gude Drive and Gaither Road (August 2005); I-270 and Shady Grove Road (August 2005); and I-270, Route 28, and Nelson Street (to be started in fall).

Hurley Avenue Traffic Calming • Intersection modification at Sherbrooke to begin in summer.

Right Turn Lane West Bound at Research Boulevard • Construction of second right turn lane to Research Boulevard in summer.

Traffic Signal at Preserve Parkway and Wootton Parkway • Contract has been awarded • Construction to be completed by August.

Watts Branch Parkway Traffic Calming • Construction improvement at Aintree Drive in the spring 2005.

STREAM AND STORM-WATER IMPROVEMENTS
Frost Stream Restoration • 1,600 feet of stream between Thomas S. Wootton High School and Robert Frost Middle School and down to Scott Drive will be restored • Contract awarded • Construction to be completed by September.

North Horners Lane Stream Improvement • 200 feet of stream restoration is being designed • Construction is planned to begin in winter 2005.

RedGate Golf Course Northeast Park Stormwater Management Retrofits • Modify existing SWM facilities and improve 600 feet of stream in Rock Creek

drainage area • One pond is on the golf course and the other is next to Gude Drive • Construction to begin in summer and to be completed in the spring 2005.

Woottons Mill Stream Improvement • 4,400 feet of stream restoration is being designed • Stream restoration is from Watts Branch Parkway to Wootton Parkway in Woottons Mill Park • Pedestrian access is to be maintained • Construction is being deferred to early 2005.

UTILITIES
Adclare Water Main Replacement • Replacement of approximately 620 feet of 6-inch water main in Adclare Road with 8-inch water main is planned • Design has started and construction is expected to begin in January 2005.

North Horners Lane Utilities Improvement • Water main upgrade planned between Southlawn Lane and Westmore Avenue • Construction to begin in fall.

Sewer Rehabilitation • Sewer evaluation survey, including flow monitoring and video inspection of underground piping for the southeastern area of Twinbrook, has been completed and the results have been evaluated • Prioritization of repairs based upon cost effectiveness • Construction planned for summer 2005.

WATER IMPROVEMENTS
Glen Mill Pump Station • This project will provide the additional pumping capacity needed to make use of the increased capacity at the Water Treatment Plant • The design is complete • Construction is expected to begin in July and will take one year to complete.

Water Tank Cathodic Protection • Three steel water tanks (Hunting Hill, Carr Avenue, and Talbott Street) will have to be rehabilitated to add a corrosion-resistance system to extend the life of the tanks • Work will be done sequentially at the each tank and will start in October.

Water Treatment Plant • A major upgrade in the treatment plant to allow a maximum daily production of 14 million gallons is essentially complete • Construction of covers over the filter wells has begun • An emergency generator will be added in the summer • Improvements to sludge handling facilities are being studied.

Steer Clear of Pedestrians, Property While Riding “Wheeled Recreation Vehicles”

People who use skateboards, roller skates, motorized and non-motorized scooters, bicycles and unicycles in a reckless or destructive manner in Rockville may face fines and have their “wheeled recreation vehicles” confiscated through a City ordinance under consideration.

The ordinance has been formally introduced by the Mayor and Council and now will move forward toward possible adoption in the next several weeks.

The proposed measure would allow City Police to confiscate the vehicles from any person observed using them in violation. Once a fine (if applied) is paid, the vehicle would be returned to the offender.

“Many communities have placed restrictions on these vehicles, and in some cases, skateboarding and in-line skating have been completely outlawed, especially in downtown areas,” said Rockville’s Director of Recreation and Parks Burt Hall.

“We do not want to penalize anyone who enjoys these activities in a responsible manner, but as use has increased, we owe it to the community to make sure pedestrians are pro-



This bench in Courthouse Square is one area that has been damaged by reckless skateboarders and others.

tected against reckless users and that public, and in some cases private, property is protected.”

Public and private property around Rockville has seen damage from various wheeled vehicles in recent years, particularly in regard to skateboards. Specifically mentioned in the ordinance as facilities the City seeks to protect are “benches, outdoor tables, planters and public art.”

The ordinance also prohibits using foreign substances to public property that some daring skateboarders apply. The ordinance would prohibit use of “wax, oil or other similar material, either as a solid or liquid, onto any curb, stair, railing, ramp, sidewalk, bench

or other structure or surface for the purpose of aiding any stunt, turn or other acrobatic action while riding a wheeled vehicle.”

Hall said that riders using their vehicles responsibly have nothing to be concerned about in the ordinance.

“We know that there a lot of young people in this City that enjoy do daring things on skateboards in particular, and for them, we have a skate park in Welsh Park that has been recognized as one of the top facilities of its kind in the metropolitan area,” said Hall.

“What we need is to impress upon the handful of irresponsible users is that many other people use our sidewalks, benches and stairs. Whizzing by unsuspecting pedestrians on any of these vehicles can put people in danger. Stunts that take chips out of cement can lead to someone tripping or falling down a set of stairs. And beyond the safety aspect, all of these things are costly and time-consuming to repair.”

Hall said the ordinance could be adopted by the Mayor and Council as early as this summer. **RR**

Desegregating Rockville’s Schools

This year, the nation is marking the 50th anniversary of the groundbreaking Supreme Court decision, Brown V. Board of Education, which desegregated public schools.

Rockville Reports asked longtime City resident, Ella



Ella Smith

Smith, to reflect on her memories of that time.

Smith, 84, like many Rockville residents, is deeply familiar with the changes in civil rights.

Smith’s family moved to Rockville in 1934 so she could attend the only high school available to black children in Montgomery County at that time. The school was located in Lincoln Park and did not provide transportation for students, so Smith’s family moved closer.

As an adult, she worked in a local black-only school’s cafeteria.

Her daughters, Pamela and Donna, were two of the first five black children to integrate West Rockville Elementary School, known today as Beall Elementary. Pamela was the first black child in a first-grade classroom, while Donna was placed in a third-grade classroom. The three other children were each in-

cluded in a different grade.

“I felt real happy that [desegregation] was happening,” said Smith. “[My children] were able to have opportunities they didn’t have in black schools.”

Smith recalls that her daughters

were able to pursue their musical interests because West Rockville elementary had a better music program. In addition, she said the new school had better textbooks. She said the black schools were often given used textbooks.

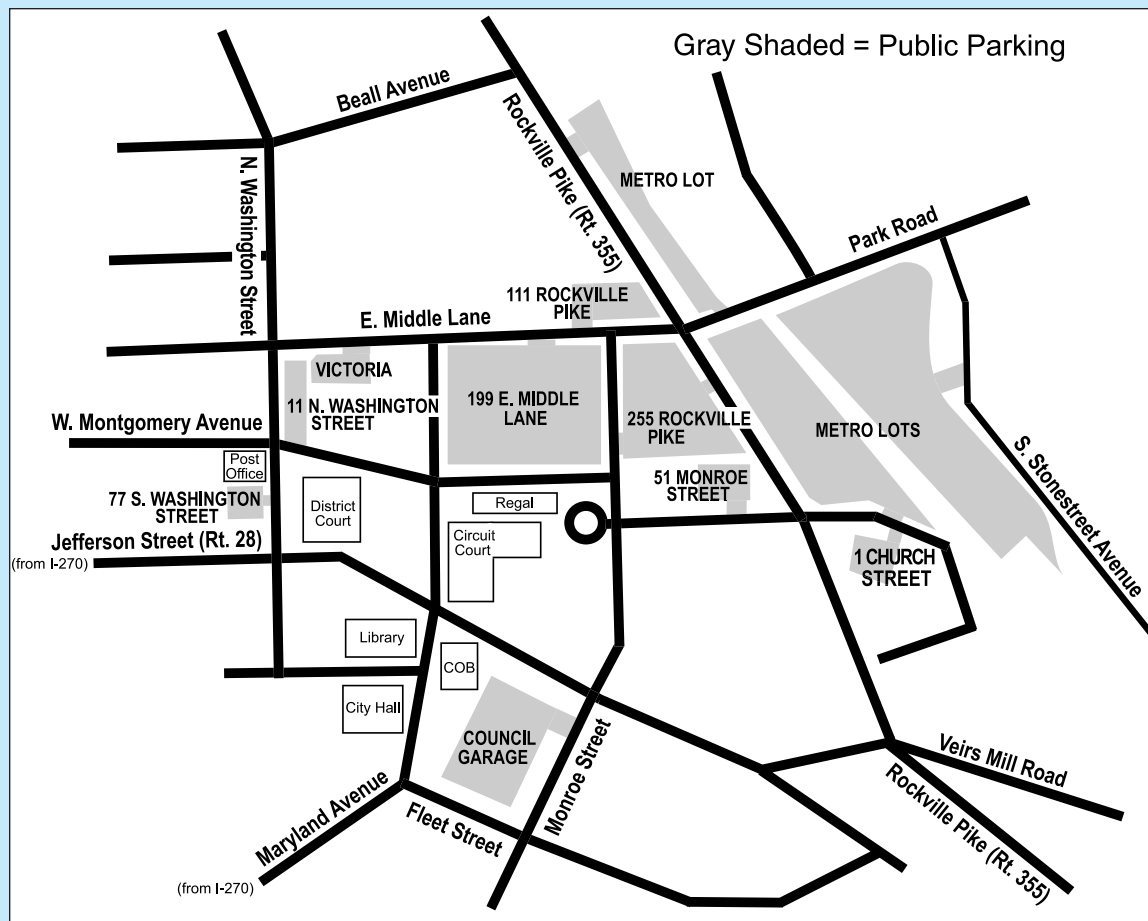
However, the change did bring some challenges for her family.

“When my mother picked Pamela up from school, she would often find her crying,” explained Smith. “My mother wanted to take her out of the school, but I said they needed to stay. She needed to learn to like it and to make new friends.”

The City is deeply grateful to Smith and her family for their contribution to Rockville’s history and to Smith’s ongoing volunteer support of City Hall. Smith devotes countless hours to the City’s reception desk. **RR**

Parking Options During Town Center Construction

As the City prepares to begin construction in Rockville’s Town Center, a variety of parking options are available for visitors and residents during the work. For details on lot hours, rates, parking meters, pre-paid parking cards and more, visit www.rockvillemd.gov/towncenter/parking.



Tax Credits For Historic Properties Return to Md.

The Maryland State Historic Preservation Tax Credit program administered through the Maryland Historic Trust (MHT) will continue until 2008 with some changes following passage of legislation by the General Assembly and approval by Governor Robert L. Ehrlich.

Rockville Mayor Larry Giammo served on the task force that supported continuation of the program, which allows historic property owners to apply 20 percent of the cost of eligible interior and exterior renovations toward their Maryland income tax.

The residential tax credits must now have an application approved before beginning the work by the Maryland Historical Trust to be eligible. Formerly, citizens doing ordinary maintenance such as exterior painting or roofing could file at the project conclusion. Property owners must file in advance to be eligible.

Each project is capped at

\$50,000 of credits/refunds.

Commercial, income producing and non-profit Maryland tax credits are still available but with financial limitations and new geographic and other criteria for selection. The application must be approved before the work is begun. Ten percent of the commercial funds are set aside for non-profit organizations, which receive a reimbursement by check.

The 10 percent Montgomery County property tax refund for exterior rehabilitation is still in effect.

For more information, visit the Maryland Historical Trust Web site, and look under “Tax Credits” at www.marylandhistoricaltrust.net.

Additional information on project eligibility and a link to the Maryland Historic Trust is on the City of Rockville Web site under “Historic Rockville” at www.rockvillemd.gov or contact City staff at 240-314-8230. **RR**



DOGGING IT... A crowd of about 10,000 people lined the streets of Rockville Town Center on May 31 for the 60th annual Rockville Memorial Day Parade. The line of march had approximately 100 entries, including the Rockville Lions Club. Archie the Dog “driving” this classic car earned the Lions Club the judges’ Recreation and Park Advisory Board Award.

Refuse: Change For Big Pickups

Collecting refuse and recycling in a cost-efficient manner is an issue that is posing challenges to local governments across the Washington metropolitan region. For the City of Rockville, the problem goes a step further: How to maintain the premiere collection operation in the area while also keeping control of escalating costs.

One change to increase efficiency went into effect last month: Pickups of large, bulky items (such as appliances, furniture, automotive parts, swing sets, etc.) will now take place only on Wednesdays, and residents must now call in advance for those pickups.

Rockville previously had a crew assigned to travel the

City on each collection day to pick up major items, not knowing where, or if, items would be set out.

Requests for pickups must be called in by 3 p.m. on Tuesdays (to 240-314-8568) to schedule a Wednesday pickup. Items must be placed at the curb.

“Pick up of big items affects most residents only occasionally, and we want everyone to know that this service will always be available,” said Hal Cranor, Rockville’s Director of Public Works. “This change will help keep costs down and that is what we have been looking to achieve.”

NOTICE: There will be no trash or recycling pickups on Monday, July 5. [RR](#)

Street Paving Program: Keeping Rockville’s Pot Holes Grounded

Rockville’s street paving program, which has kept City-maintained streets relatively pothole-free for more than a decade, will continue this summer from July 15 through Sept. 15 as roads will be resurfaced in selected neighborhoods.

The primary areas addressed this year will be the neighborhoods of Hungerford and portions of Twinbrook, West End and East Rockville.

Rockville has kept a regular schedule over the years for milling and paving streets. Edge milling leaves a rough surface for the new asphalt to adhere. Milling the sides of roads creates a slight crown in the roadway, allowing water to run off.

“The new compacted as-

phalt can be driven on in less than a half-hour,” said Mike Wilhelm, City contract manager. “This allows traffic in congested areas to be restored to almost normal in a reasonable amount of time.”

The work is performed in summer when the weather is warmest because of the nature of hot asphalt. The timing also is good because schools are closed and traffic is less congested.

The City posts signs on roads 48 hours in advance of work to inform residents of impending work. Road contractors additionally leave flyers in mailboxes as an extra measure to keep neighborhoods aware of paving activities.

Resurfacing is conducted from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. [RR](#)

Croydon Creek Screeches Out: ‘We’ve Become Quite A Hoot!’

Croydon Creek Nature Center, Rockville’s only center dedicated to helping thousands of children and adults each year learn about their natural world, in June welcomed its first full-time feathered resident: Cosmo the Eastern Screech Owl.

The event also honored members of “Students Engaging the World” club from The Frost School in Aspen Hill who donated numerous volunteer hours to the center and \$500 for the purchase of the Croydon Creek’s new owl aviary.

Cosmo, who is about six inches tall and weighs no more than a candy bar, is the Center’s first permanently injured owl and is not able to be released into the wild. The owl was hit by a car in September

and rehabilitated at the Second Chance Wildlife Center, Montgomery County’s only non-profit wildlife rehabilitation center, before coming to Croydon Creek.

Helping to create Cosmo’s new home are the students from The Frost School that serves students with emotional disabilities. Chris Cambell, 17, and Amy Callaghan, 18, are two students from the school who have been volunteering at the center every Thursday since January. The rest of the group’s dozen or so members have volunteered in other locations. In June, they presented the center with a \$500 check that they received for their volunteer service from the Marriott Corporation.

“We are delighted the stu-

dents have chosen the Nature Center for this generous gift,” said Valerie Oliver, the nature center supervisor. “It will not only provide an important home for Cosmo, but also helps thousands of other children learn more about the world around them.”

Councilmember Bob Dorsey told the students that their effort shows “it’s a good idea to learn the importance of sharing, thank you for sharing this gift with the Nature Center and with the entire City.”

For more information about the City’s Nature Center, visit www.rockvillemd.gov/croydoncreek. [RR](#)



Nature Center Supervisor, Valerie Oliver, gives volunteers Amy Callaghan, left, and Chris Cambell an upclose look at Cosmo, the Center’s new Eastern Screech Owl.

Smooth Driving: Roads to be Resurfaced

The following roads primarily in the neighborhoods of Hungerford and parts of Twinbrook, West End and East Rockville are scheduled for paving this summer:

McAulliffe Drive (from Cedar Lane to Patton Place); Patton Place; Cedar Court; Cedar Lane (from Grandin Avenue to Marshall Avenue); Dean Drive (from Grandin Avenue to Bernard Place); Midway Avenue; Aleutian Avenue; Stillwell Road; Crawford Drive; Broadwood Drive (from Veirs Mill Road to Lewis Avenue); Parrish Drive (from Lewis Avenue to Henry Road); Allison Drive; Curtice Place (from West Edmonston Drive to new paving); Brice Road; Bowie Court; Bowie Road; Crothers Court; Crothers Lane; Mt. Vernon Place; Richard Montgomery Drive (from Mt. Vernon Place to school parking lot); Colonial Court; Paca Place;

East Jefferson Street (from Mt. Vernon Place to Richie Parkway); Mercer Road; Harrington Road; Carter Court; Carter Road; Maxim Lane; Leverton Road; East Lynfield Drive; West Lynfield Drive; Argyle Street (from Monroe Street to West Lynfield Drive); Blandford Street; South Washington Street (from Jefferson Street to Argyle Street); Jefferson Place; Park Avenue; Church Street; Baltimore Road (from Church Street to Cul-de-sac); Beall Avenue (from North Washington Street to Nelson Street); Forest Avenue; Luckett Street; Middle Lane (from North Washington Street to North Van Buren Street); Thomas Street; Williams Street; Ashley Avenue; Westmore Road (Ashley Avenue to Frederick Road); Frederick Avenue (Metro tracks to North Horners Lane); Douglas Avenue; Virginia Avenue; Woodland

Road; England Terrace; Burgundy Court; Eldon Court; Kemp Court; Charles Street; Croydon Avenue; Mc Arthur Drive; Park Road; Seth Place; South Horners Lane; Grandin Avenue (from Crabb Avenue to Park Road); Grandin Avenue (Baltimore Road to past reading); Reading Terrace; Highland Avenue (South Stonestreet Avenue to Grandin Avenue); South Stonestreet Avenue (from Park Road to end); Reading Avenue (from South Stonestreet Avenue to First Street); Joseph Street; Maple Avenue (from Baltimore Road to First Street); Grandin Avenue (from Baltimore Road to First Street); Edmonston Road (from Veirs Mill Road to Rt. 355); Ardenne Avenue (from Veirs Mill Road to the City limit near Twinbrook Parkway). [RR](#)

INSIDE MAYOR & COUNCIL

A Glimpse into the City Government at Work



CENTER OF ATTENTION... Rockville Town Center attracted some of the area's most notable people for the groundbreaking of the Rockville Town Square development. Listening to Governor Robert L. Ehrlich's remarks, left to right, are: Mayor Larry Giammo, Scott Ross of RD Rockville, John Jaeger of RD Rockville, Montgomery County Executive Doug Duncan, State Senator Jennie Forehand, Councilmember Bob Dorsey, Maryland State Delegate Charles Barkley, Councilmember John Hall, Jr., Montgomery County Councilmember Phil Andrews, Councilmember Susan Hoffmann and Councilmember Anne Robbins.

FY 2005 Budget Highlights

Below are highlights from the FY 2005 budget adopted by the Mayor and Council on June 14. The budget goes into effect on July 1.

- The **property tax rate** remains unchanged at \$.322 per \$100 of assessed value.
- The **FY 2005 operating budget** is \$74,899,008. This represents a net increase of 7.2 percent over the modified FY 2004 budget, net of appropriated fund balance in the General Fund.
- The **General Fund budget** of \$48,936,045 is 6.8 percent higher than the modified FY 2004 budget, net of the appropriated fund balance in the General Fund.
- **General Fund revenue** in FY 2005 will exceed the revenue in the modified FY 2004 bud-

get by \$3.4 million. The major portion of the General Fund revenue growth is a projected increase in real property tax revenue of \$1.9 million (8.0 percent over the FY 2004 modified amount). Income tax revenue is budgeted to increase by \$111,175 (1.8 percent of the FY 2004 modified amount). However, the income tax revenue estimated for FY 2005 is below the amount actually received in FY 2002.

- The **Capital Improvements Program (CIP)** incorporates \$121,828,317 of community enhancements to be made over the next six years. In addition, open projects from prior years in the amount of \$138,358,032 will be included in the FY 2005 CIP appropriation.

- The **Water rate** will increase by \$.08 per thousand gallons in FY 2005, raising the rate to \$2.07 per thousand gallons, an increase of 4 percent.
- The **Sewer rate** will increase by \$0.11 per thousand gallons in FY 2005, raising the rate to \$3.61 per thousand gallons, representing an increase of 3.1 percent. Nearly all of the capital costs in the Sewer Fund, and a substantial portion of the operating costs, are payments for the operation of, and capital improvements to, the Blue Plains Wastewater Treatment Plant. Even with the increase, the City's rate remains below the WSSC rate.
- The **Refuse rate** will increase by \$2.25 per month. The proposed FY 2005 rate of \$27.50 is a 8.8 percent increase from FY 2004.



COUNCIL MEMBERS VISIT ROCKVILLE'S SISTER CITY... Pinneberg's Burgermeister Horst-Werner Nitt, left, visited with Rockville Councilmembers John Hall, Jr., and Susan Hoffmann at a reception in Pinneberg's City Hall in June. The Councilmembers presented the Burgermeister with a print by Rockville Artist Gary Funkhouser. Rockville and Pinneberg have been Sister Cities for more than four decades.

Gaithersburg and Rockville Co-host Town Hall Meeting on Controlling Gangs

As gang violence continues to plague the Washington, D.C., metropolitan region, local governments are combining resources in an attempt to prevent gang involvement. Mayor Larry Giammo participated in a significant measure last month.

The mayors of Gaithersburg and Rockville, the two largest municipalities in Montgomery

County, co-hosted a Gang Task Force Town Hall Meeting on Wednesday, June 2, at the Casey Community Center in Gaithersburg. City of Rockville Police Chief Terry Treschuk also attended.

Residents discussed issues in Gaithersburg primarily. However, one Rockville citizen mentioned she would like to

volunteer with at-risk youth during the meeting.

Mayor Giammo and Gaithersburg Mayor Sidney A. Katz have supported the efforts to combat gang activity and gang violence throughout Montgomery County. They are members of the Joint County Gang Prevention Task Force between Montgomery County and Prince George's County. **RR**

City Manager Candidates Reviewed

In mid-June, the Mayor and Council met with an executive search firm to review information about 15 of the top candidates for Rockville's vacant city manager position. Following those meetings, the group of candidates was narrowed down further.

More research was conducted by the search firm on each of the candidates who hail from across the country, including visits to the locations where the candidates are currently employed.

In July, the process will continue to move forward as a number of candidates will be invited to Rockville to be interviewed by the Mayor and Council.

Catherine Tuck Parrish has been the acting city manager since W. Mark Pentz resigned in January to become city manager of Chandler, Ariz. A new city manager is expected to be selected by the Mayor and Council by early fall. **RR**

Historical Markers Added To Haiti — Martin's Lane Neighborhood

The Mayor and Council recognized the historic and cultural significance of the Haiti-Martin's Lane community of Rockville by dedicating two historic markers last month. The ceremony took place during the West End Citizens Association annual block party.

City staff has worked with resident Seldon Higgins and other community members since mid-summer 2003 to acknowledge the distinct history of this neighborhood.

This black residential settlement was established more than 170 years ago when Samuel Martin, a free black man, settled on the north side of Martin's Lane in the 1830s and left his land to a large family that constructed homes that were used for generations. Between emancipation in 1864 and her death in 1901, Margaret Beall deeded 30 parcels of land on the south side of Martin's Lane to the family's former slaves and servants.

Kinship and institutional bonds still preserve the community's character and unity.

Many descendants of the original Martin, Wood, Ross and Smith families remain in the community. Haiti was annexed into the City of Rockville in 1949. **RR**



Mayor
Larry Giammo



Councilmember
Robert E. (Bob) Dorsey



Councilmember
John F. Hall, Jr.



Councilmember
Susan R. Hoffmann



Councilmember
Anne M. Robbins

Mayor & Council Drop In

The Mayor and one Councilmember are available to meet with residents on a drop-in basis in the Mayor and Council office at City Hall from 5:30-6:30 p.m. on Mondays (unless otherwise noted) when there is a General Session or Public Hearing. Call the City Clerk's Office (240-314-8280) as drop-in times are subject to change.

In addition to Mayor Larry Giammo, Councilmembers scheduled for July are:

- **July 12:** Bob Dorsey
- **July 19:** John Hall, Jr.
- **July 26:** Susan Hoffmann

Mayor & Council Meetings

All General Sessions, Worksessions and Public Hearings are televised on The Rockville Channel, and are available on streaming video at: www.rockvillemd.gov. All meetings are subject to change.

- **July 12 (Mon.)** General Session, 7 p.m.
- **July 19 (Mon.)** Four public hearings. Worksession (tentative: Rockville Sister City), 7 p.m.
- **July 21 (Wed.)** Worksession (joint meeting with the Planning Commission), 7 p.m.
- **July 26 (Mon.)** General Session, 7 p.m.

Boards & Commissions Vacancies

The City is seeking applicants for appointment to the following:

- Cultural Arts Commission (one)
- Human Services Advisory Commission (one at-large)
- Human Rights Commission (one)
- Landlord/Tenant (one/tenant)

For more information, contact the Office of the City Clerk at 240-314-8280.

OUT & ABOUT IN ROCKVILLE

Highlighting City Events and Programs



Visitors to Hometown Holidays in May got a taste of the spectacular fireworks Rockville has to offer.

Rockville Goes Red Glare July 4th

Rockville, which annually has produced one of the Washington area's biggest July 4 events, will renew the tradition this year with a program that will be enjoyed by the entire family.

The City will celebrate America's Independence Day on Sunday, July 4, at Richard Montgomery High School. The school is located at 250 Richard Montgomery Drive off of Route 355. The event will include music, food and a spectacular fireworks show.

The Rockville Concert Band will kick off the festivities with a melody of patriotic music at 6:30 p.m. At 7:30 p.m., the Dixie Rascals will perform Dixieland jazz. They will be followed by the Crawdaddies and their brand of zydeco and roots rock at 8 p.m.

The "first family of fireworks," Zambelli Internationale, will create another fantastic display of colorful fireworks this year beginning at about 9:30 p.m.

The special evening often attracts more than 30,000 people to the Rockville area. This year's crowd will have the added experience of a sensational soundtrack played while the fireworks are skyrocketing.

Food vendors at the event will offer ice cream, pizza, funnel cakes, Asian fare, cheese steaks, Italian sausages, cold drinks and more in the food court area.

"We have a great soundtrack this year—it really enhances the experience," said Mike Henry, Rockville's special events coordinator.

The Rockville celebration is

the best way for families to enjoy the tradition of July 4 fireworks. Rockville Police Chief Terry Treschuk reminds citizens that personal use of fireworks is illegal in Maryland.

"Fireworks also can be dangerous, especially around children," said Chief Treschuk. "Illegal fireworks will be confiscated and citations issued. We are aiming for another safe and exciting Fourth of July in Rockville. There will be much ongoing at the City events and we encourage everyone to take advantage of the celebration."

The only parking available at Richard Montgomery High School will be for handicapped parking. Parking for the festivities will be available at all Town Center parking lots and garages. Parking at Town Center meters will be free all day.

Those driving into the City should note several special traffic changes to help manage the large crowds expected. Starting at 4 p.m. on July 4, Richard Montgomery Drive from Route 355 to Mount Vernon Place and Fleet Street from Monroe to Richard Montgomery Drive will be closed to allow for festival set up and pedestrian traffic. Traffic on Mount Vernon Place from Monroe to Richard Montgomery Drive will be limited to local residents with identification.

In case of rain, the events will be moved to Monday night, July 5. For the special events recorded line, call 240-314-5022. This line will be updated in case of inclement weather. [RR](#)

See *The Lion King* on Broadway and/or 'The Big Apple' Saturday, July 10

The City of Rockville's Recreation and Parks Department is sponsoring a trip to New York City on Saturday, July 10, to see the city sights and/or experience *The Lion King* on Broadway.

Perfect for families (including children ages 8 and up), couples and individuals, everyone will enjoy the unique costumes and captivating music as they watch the story of Simba, Pumbaa and the whole gang from the Circle of Life played out during this spectacular presentation.

A luxury motorcoach will depart City Hall at 5 a.m. on Saturday, July 10. Upon arrival in midtown, there will be time for

brunch, a walk in Central Park or a quick museum tour before the 2 p.m. curtain. Following the show, the bus will depart around 5 p.m. for a late evening arrival back in Rockville.

The fee is \$159 for residents and \$199 for non-residents for those going to the show. For those not attending the play, the fees are \$55 for residents and \$69 for non-residents.

Register online through Rock Enroll www.rockvillemd.gov. The trips are listed as *Lion King on Broadway* or *Make Mine Manhattan*. Additional questions can be directed to Susan Klise at 240-314-8641 or by email at sklise@rockvillemd.gov. [RR](#)



HOMETOWN HOLIDAYS A HIT... *Thousands gathered in Rockville's Town Center during Memorial Day weekend for one of the most successful Hometown Holidays events yet. Above, Gin Blossoms perform as part of headline show (with LIVE) before an overflow crowd at the Saturday night concert.*

City of Rockville History: Open for Exploration

The long-term and more recent history of Rockville will become an open book through two exciting events involving Peerless Rockville, the organization dedicated to preserving the City's history.

On Wednesday, June 23, a presentation on the history of the Peerless Rockville organization will highlight the group's 30th anniversary meeting that will start at 7:30 p.m. in the Grand Courtroom of the historic Red Brick Courthouse at 29 Courthouse Square in Town Center. The restored courtroom itself is a treat to see. The meeting is open to Peerless members and non-members.

On Saturday, June 26, Rockville will join the countywide celebration of the seventh annual Montgomery County Heritage Day.

Rockville will sponsor

events from 12 noon to 4 p.m. Tours will be available of the Red Brick Courthouse, which was built in 1891, and inspirational information will be available about the early settlers of Rockville, Civil War generals and great American author F. Scott Fitzgerald, who is buried in Rockville's St. Mary's Church Cemetery. History buffs can be directed on a walking tour of Rockville's past and an 'historic' scavenger hunt will be among the day's activities, all of which are free.

Montgomery Heritage Day features events at 30 sites countywide for exploring local history.

For more information on Rockville-sponsored events, call 301-762-0096. For more information on the Montgomery Heritage Day, visit www.montgomeryhistory.org or call 240-314-8230. [RR](#)



Rockville's Rotary Twilight Run attracts some of the region's top road racers as well as recreational runners who enjoy the evening event.

Twilight Run Takes to the Road on Sat., July 17

The Washington, D.C. area's best-known evening road race, and one of the region's top block parties, will take place Saturday, July 17, with the 19th Annual Rockville Rotary Twilight Run.

The Twilight Run will feature an 8-kilometer race (including a wheelchair division) and a 1K "Fun Run" followed by family-friendly music, refreshments and an overall rockin' good evening.

The festival begins at 7 p.m. and the race starts at 8:45 p.m. in Rockville Town Center at North Washington Street and Middle Lane.

The 8K course winds through Rockville's neighborhood streets. The course will be closed to traffic and monitored extensively, including course marshals, an emergency radio network, Rockville City Police, roving paramedics and medical aid are available at the start, two and four-mile markers and finish.

All 8K participants will receive a T-shirt. Cash awards will be given to top finishers.

The 8K fee is \$22 by July 9, \$25 by 4 p.m. race day, (July 17) and \$30 after 6 p.m. on race day. For the Fun Run, the fee is \$10.

The race proceeds support the Rockville Rotary Youth Recreation Fund, which enables Rockville youth to participate in fee-paid recreations programs they would otherwise not be able to afford.

In addition, funds will be donated to Rockville Rotary's Foundation, which helps local charities. Tax-deductible contributions also are accepted along with entry fees.

Visit www.twilighter.org for more information or call the City of Rockville Department of Recreation and Parks at 240-314-5028. [RR](#)

Rockville Up Close: **Bicycle Advisory Committee**

Residents help shape Rockville through involvement with neighborhood and civic associations and participation on the Mayor and Council-appointed Boards and Commissions. On a regular basis, Rockville Up Close will take an in-depth look at these organizations.

Bicycling is a sport for all ages and members of the Rockville Senior Center are proving it by participating in a new class— Rockville Senior Riders.

Several seniors in June completed the course, which was conducted by members of the Rockville Bicycle Advisory Committee.

This class at the Senior Center is one of the newest ways the Bicycle Advisory Committee is helping promote bicycling in Rockville. Members also volunteer to help organize annual events such as Ride for Rockville, Bike to Work Day and other activities.

The course boasts it will help seniors recapture their youth as they participate in causal bike rides around Rockville and learn



Twinbrook’s Nancy McIntyre learns the ins and outs of bicycling from committee member Bill Michie.

the fundamentals of bicycling including rules of the road and simple bicycle maintenance.

Overall, the course helps seniors, like 69-year-old Twinbrook resident Nancy McIntyre, learn new skills and become confident to explore their neighborhoods by bike.

It had been more than 50 years since McIntyre last rode a bicycle. But after receiving a new bike from her children for Mother’s Day and deciding to

make 2004 the year she wants to explore the outdoors more, McIntyre is taking to the streets as one of the classes’ first participants.

“People my age are concerned most about falling,” she said. “But the first time I started to fall, Bill [Michie] caught me and then he taught me how not to do it again.”

Michie is an active member of the Rockville Bicycle Advisory Committee and participates in

numerous area bike organizations. He worked with McIntyre one day per week for six weeks. With Michie’s help, after one month, McIntyre was coasting down a steep hill outside of the Senior Center and cruising past slow-moving traffic on Rockville streets.

“It’s OK to be nervous,” McIntyre said her experience has taught her. “That should not stop you from trying it.”

The class also helps people like McIntyre find others with whom to take bike trips. Participants in the class, which also is taught by Barry Klein, president of the Bicycle Advisory Committee, are finding bike riding creates new friends with a common new interest.

McIntyre has quickly become an advocate for more people riding bikes.

“There are lots of reasons for trying just one trip on a bicycle, including helping to take cars off the road, stopping pollution and being more healthy,” she said. “More people should do it.” **RR**

Bravest in Rockville Honored for Heroic Deeds

More than a dozen public employees and private citizens were honored for their acts of bravery and meritorious public service on June 9 at the 2004 Rockville Public Safety Awards.

Among those recognized at the 15th annual program at Lake-wood Country Club was Rockville City Police Corporal Heath Marshall, who received a Citation for Bravery after he risked his own life to rescue a young man who had jumped into a Rockville neighborhood lake.

Citations for Bravery also went to Rockville Volunteer Fire Department firefighters Sander Cohen, Robert James, Edward Kenworthy, Steve Phillips and

David Twarkowski for their actions that led to the rescue of people trapped in an apartment complex fire on Monroe Street

three days before Christmas.

Four citations for Meritorious Service were awarded, including one to Phil Ashworth of the City’s Municipal Swim Center. His quick actions saved the lives of



Rockville’s Bravest: Left to right, Corporal Heath Marshall, Sergeant James Walsh and Corporal Kevin King.

two young swimmers over the past year. Meritorious Service Citations also went to Rockville City Po-

lice Corporal Kevin King for calming a domestic situation in which one person was threatening another with a weapon and Police Sergeant James Walsh, whose determination to find a

missing child went into the cold March evening before he found her barefoot and scared on a construction site.

Ron Brotman, a Rockville Allstate insurance agent, was honored for his instrumental support of the City Police Department’s “Every 15 Minutes” teen drunk driving awareness program.

Longtime Rockville resident, Owings England, 87, served the nation in World War II and for more than 40 years as a Lions Club member. He received the Community Service Award for a variety of activities, including 21 years of teaching skills to inmates at the Montgomery County Detention Center. **RR**

TRC 11	THE ROCKVILLE CHANNEL JULY PROGRAMMING SCHEDULE						
	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
12 Midnight until meeting ends	Planning Commission □	Mayor & Council □	Mayor & Council □	Mayor & Council □	Mayor & Council □	Mayor & Council □	Planning Commission □
6 am	City Hall Report	City Hall Report	City Hall Report	City Hall Report	City Hall Report	City Hall Report	City Hall Report
6:30 am	Cityline	Cityline	Cityline	Cityline	Cityline	Cityline	Cityline
7 am	Permit Process	Air Quality Codes	RISE	Air Quality Codes	Police Technology	Permit Process	Permit Process
7:30 am	Mayor & Council Review	Mayor & Council Review	Mayor & Council Review	Mayor & Council Review	Mayor & Council Review	Mayor & Council Review	Mayor & Council Review
8 am	City Hall Report	City Hall Report	City Hall Report	City Hall Report	City Hall Report	City Hall Report	City Hall Report
8:30 am	Mayor & Council □	Cityline	Cityline	Cityline	Cityline	Cityline	Mayor & Council □
9 am	□	Diversity in the City □	Public Safety Awards	Destination: rockvillemd.gov	Permit Process	Diversity in the City □	□
9:30 am	□	□	Police Technology	RISE	Air Quality Codes	□	□
10 am	□	RISE	Pedestrian and Bicycle Safety	Diversity in the City □	Public Safety Awards	Permit Process	□
10:30 am	□	Public Safety Awards	Air Quality Codes	□	Police Technology	Rockville City Government	□
11 am	Cityline	Police Technology	Online Frontier: Internet Safety	Police Technology	RISE	Destination: rockvillemd.gov	Cityline
11:30 am	Mayor & Council Review	Mayor & Council Review	Mayor & Council Review	Mayor & Council Review	Mayor & Council Review	Mayor & Council Review	Mayor & Council Review
12 noon	City Hall Report	City Hall Report	City Hall Report	City Hall Report	City Hall Report	City Hall Report	City Hall Report
12:30 pm	Cityline	Cityline	Cityline	Cityline	Cityline	Cityline	Cityline
1 pm until meeting ends	Mayor & Council □	Planning Commission □	Mayor & Council □	Mayor & Council □	Planning Commission □	Mayor & Council □	Planning Commission □
4 pm	Diversity in the City □	□	RISE	Public Safety Awards	□	Diversity in the City □	□
4:30 pm	□	Pedestrian and Bicycle Safety	Air Quality Codes	Police Technology	Permit Process	□	Permit Process
5 pm	Police Technology	Destination: rockvillemd.gov	Police Technology	Diversity in the City □	RISE	Croydon Creek Nature Center	RISE
5:30 pm	Public Safety Awards	Online Frontier: Internet Safety	Public Safety Awards	□	Destination: rockvillemd.gov	Every 15 Minutes	Croydon Creek Nature Center
6 pm	City Hall Report	City Hall Report	City Hall Report	City Hall Report	City Hall Report	City Hall Report	City Hall Report
6:30 pm	Mayor & Council Review	Mayor & Council Review	Mayor & Council Review	Mayor & Council Review	Mayor & Council Review	Mayor & Council Review	Mayor & Council Review
7 pm	Planning Commission □	Mayor & Council □	Diversity in the City □	Planning Commission □	RISE	Mayor & Council □	Police Technology
7:30 pm	□	□	□	□	Police Technology	□	RISE
8 pm	□	□	Public Safety Awards	□	Diversity in the City □	□	Every 15 Minutes
8:30 pm	□	□	Police Technology	□	□	□	Diversity in the City □
9 pm	□	□	RISE	□	Public Safety Awards	□	□
9:30 pm	□	□	Cityline	□	Cityline	□	Cityline
10 pm	City Hall Report	City Hall Report	City Hall Report	City Hall Report	City Hall Report	City Hall Report	City Hall Report
10:30 pm	Mayor & Council Review	Mayor & Council Review	Mayor & Council Review	Mayor & Council Review	Mayor & Council Review	Mayor & Council Review	Mayor & Council Review
11 pm	Air Quality Codes	Police Technology	Responsive & Responsible: Rockville City Government	Diversity in the City □	Permit Process	Every 15 Minutes	RISE
11:30 pm	Public Safety Awards	RISE	Air Quality Codes	□	Destination: rockvillemd.gov	Police Technology	Croydon Creek Nature Center

Volunteer Time: Coach a Sports Team

There are infinite ways to share talent, experience, expertise and time with individuals or organizations that could use assistance by volunteering in the City. Each month “Volunteer Time” will highlight a different volunteer opportunity to promote an interest in giving back to the community.

Nearly every day of the week, hundreds of Rockville youngsters are learning how to be productive team players, experiencing the ups and downs of competition and growing up to be confident, successful citizens through the City’s Youth Sports program. Key to the program’s success are more than 500 volunteers who coach nearly 6,000 children each year.

About 90 percent of the City’s current volunteer coaches are parents of children who participate in the sport. But anyone interested in serving the community can participate, including high school and college students.

Team coaches must be 18 or older and have an interest in the sport and working with children. Previous coaching experience and detailed knowledge of the sport are not required as all coaches participate in the National Youth Sports Coaches certification program, through the City of Rockville.

The certification program is a two-night class that discusses topics such as coaches responsibilities, how to organize a practice, offense, defense and sport specific tips. Volunteers will learn from a full-time expert coach in the field.

Safety is also a priority for the City, so all coaches receive a state and national background check and are fingerprinted.

Volunteers are accepted at all times throughout the year for a variety of sports including baseball, football, basketball, soccer, track and field, girls softball, tee ball and boys and girls wrestling.

“One of the biggest benefits is seeing the children realize their goals and mature to become team players,” said Chuck Miller, sports program supervisor.

To participate call 240-314-8620. **RR**



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Any individuals with disabilities who would like to receive the information in this publication in another form may contact the ADA Coordinator at 240-314-8100; TTY 240-314-8137.